Numb. CXXII.

The GUARDIAN.

Nec Magis expreſſi vultus per ahenea Signa. Hor.

Friday, July 31. 1713.

THAT I may get out of Debt with the Publick as faſt as I can, I ſhall here give them the remaining part of *Strada*'s Criticiſm on the *Latin* Heroick Poets. My Readers may ſee the whole Work in the three Papers Numbered 115, 119, 122. Thoſe who are acquainted with the Authors themſelves, cannot but be pleaſed to ſee them ſo juſtly repreſented; and as for thoſe who have never peruſed the Originals, they may form a Judgment of them from ſuch accurate and entertaining Copies. The whole Piece will ſhow at leaſt how a Man of Genius (and none elſe ſhou'd call himſelf a Critick) can make the drieſt Art a pleaſing Amuſement.

The Sequel of Strada's *Proluſion.*

The Poet who perſonated *Ovid* gives an Account of the Chryſo-Magnet, or of the Loadſtone, which attracts Gold after the ſame manner as the common Loadſtone attracts Iron. The Author, that he might expreſs *Ovid*'s way of Thinking, derives this Vertue to the Chryſo-magnet from a Poetical Metamorphoſis.

As I was ſitting by a Well, ſays he, when I was a Boy, my Ring dropt into it, when immediately my Father faſtning a certain Stone to the end of a Line, let it down into the Well. It no ſooner touched the Surface of the Water, but the Ring leapt up from the bottom, and clung to it in ſuch a manner, that he drew it out like a Fiſh. My Father ſeeing me wonder at the Experiment, gave me the following Account of it. When *Deucalion* and *Pyrrha* went about the World, to repair Mankind by throwing Stones over their Heads, the Men who roſe from them differed in their Inclinations according to the Places on which the Stones fell. Thoſe which fell in the Fields became Plowmen and Shepherds. Thoſe which fell into the Water produced Sailors and Fiſhermen. Thoſe that fell among the Woods and Forreſts gave Birth to Huntſmen. Among the reſt there were ſeveral that fell upon Mountains, that had Mines of Gold and Silver in them. This laſt Race of Men immediately betook themſelves to the ſearch of theſe precious Metals; but Nature being diſpleaſed to ſee her ſelf ranſacked, withdrew theſe her Treaſures towards the Center of the Earth. The Avarice of Man however perſiſted in its former Purſuits, and ranſacked her inmoſt Bowels in queſt of the Riches which they contained. Nature ſeeing herſelf thus plundered by a Swarm of Miners, was ſo highly incenſed, that ſhe ſhook the whole Place with an Earthquake, and buried the Men under their own Works. The *Stygian* Flames which lay in the Neighbourhood of theſe deep Mines, broke out at the ſame time with great Fury, burning up the whole Maſs of Human Limbs and Earth, 'till they were hardened and baked into Stone. The Human Bodies that were delving in Iron Mines were converted into thoſe common Loadſtones which attract that Metal. Thoſe which were in ſearch of Gold became Chryſo-Magnets, and ſtill keep their former Avarice in their preſent State of Petrefaction.

Ovid had no ſooner given over ſpeaking, but the Aſſembly pronounced their Opinions of him. Several were ſo taken with his eaſie way of Writing, and had ſo formed their Taſtes upon it, that they had no Reliſh for any Compoſition that was not framed in the *Ovidian* manner. A great many, however, were of a contrary Opinion, till at length it was determined by a Plurality of Voices, that *Ovid* highly deſerved the Name of a witty Man, but that his Language was vulgar and trivial, and of the nature of thoſe things which coſt no Labour in the Invention, but are ready found out to a Man's Hand. In the laſt place they all agreed, that the greateſt Objection which lay againſt *Ovid*, both as to his Life and Writings, was his having too much Wit, and that he would have ſucceeded bet-

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better in both, had he rather checked than indulged it. *Statius* ſtood up next with a ſwelling and haughty Air, and made the following Story the Subject of his Poem.

A *German* and a *Portugueſe*, when *Vienna* was beſieged, having had frequent Conteſts of Rivalry, were preparing for a ſingle Duel, when on a ſudden the Walls were attacked by the Enemy. Upon this both the *German* and *Portugueſe* conſented to Sacrifice their private Reſentments to the Publick, and to ſee who could ſignalize himſelf moſt upon the common Foe. Each of them did Wonders in repelling the Enemy from different Parts of the Wall. The *German* was at length engaged amidſt a whole Army of *Turks*, till his Left Arm, that held the Shield, was unfortunately lopped off, and he himſelf ſo ſtunned with a Blow he had received, that he fell down as dead. The *Portugeſe* ſeeing the Condition of his Rival, very generouſly flew to his Succour, diſperſed the Multitude that were gathered about him, and fought over him as he lay upon the Ground. In the mean while the *German* recovered from his Trance, and roſe up to the Aſſiſtance of the *Portugeſe*, who, a little after, had his Right Arm, which held his Sword, cut off by the blow of a Sabre. He would have loſt his Life at the ſame time by a Spear which was aimed at his Back, had not the *German* ſlain the Perſon who was aiming at him. Theſe two Competitors for Fame having received ſuch mutual Obligations, now fought in Conjunction, and as the one was only able to manage the Sword and the other a Shield, made up but one Warrior betwixt them. The *Portugeſe* covered the *German*, while the *German* dealt Deſtruction among the Enemy. At length, finding themſelves faint with loſs of Blood, and reſolving to periſh nobly, they advanced to the moſt ſhattered Part of the Wall, and threw themſelves down, with a huge Fragment of it, upon the Heads of the Beſiegers.

When *Statius* ceaſed, the old Factions immediately broke out concerning his manner of Writing. Some gave him very loud Acclamations ſuch as he had received in his Life-time, declaring him the only Man who had written in a Stile which was truly Heroical, and that he was above all others in his Fame as well as in his Diction. Others cenſured him as one who went beyond all Bounds in his Images and Expreſſions, laughing at the cruelty of his Conceptions, the rumbling of his Numbers, and the dreadful Pomp and Bombaſt of his Expreſſions. There were however a few ſelect Judges who moderated between both theſe Extreams, and pronounced upon *Statius*, that there appeared in his Stile much Poetical Heat and Fire, but withal ſo much Smoke as deſtroyed the Brightneſs of it. That there was a Majeſty in his Verſe, but that it was the Majeſty rather of a Tyrant than of a King. That he was often towering among the Clouds, but often met with the Fate of *Icarus*. In a Word, that *Statius* was among the Poets, what *Alexander* the Great is among Heroes, a Man of great Virtues and of great Faults.

Virgil was the laſt of the ancient Poets who produced himſelf upon this Occaſion. His Subject was the Story of *Theoſtilla*, which being ſo near that of *Judith* in all its Circumſtances, and at the ſame time tranſlated by a very Ingenious Gentleman in one of Mr. *Dryden*'s Miſcellanies, I ſhall here give no farther Account of it. When he had done, the whole Aſſembly declared the Works of this great Poet a Subject rather for their Admiration than for their Applauſe, and that if any thing was wanting in *Virgil*'s Poetry it was to be aſcribed to a Deficiency in the Art itſelf, and not in the Genius of this great Man. There were however ſome envious Murmurs and Detractions heard among the Croud, as if there were very frequently Verſes in him which flagg'd or wanted Spirit, and were rather to be looked upon as Faultleſs than Beautiful. But theſe injudicious Cenſures were heard with a general Indignation.

I need not obſerve to my learned Reader, that the foregoing Story of the *German* and *Portugueſe* is almoſt the ſame in every Particular with that of the two Rival Soldiers in *Cæſar*'s Commentaries. This Proluſion ends with the Performance of an *Italian* Poet, full of thoſe little Witticiſms and Conceits which have infected the greateſt Part of modern Poetry.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Juſt Publiſhed,

The Law of Elections; being an Abſtract of all the Statutes in force, relating to the Election of Members to ſerve in the Houſe of Commons. In three Sections, viz. the Duties of the Electors, the Elected, and the Officers Returning. Printed for Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpear's Head againſt Katherine-ſtreet in the Strand.

Stolen out of the Ground of Mr. Page of Kilburne in Middleſex, the 22d of this Inſtant July, 1713, a large brown Gelding with a Star in his Forehead, well Fashioned, upwards of 15 Hands high, full Aſe, Walks, Trots, and Gallops, was ſtobb'd ſome time ago with a Bull's Horn on the near Side near the girting Place. Whoever gives Notice to Mr. Robert Nash at the Guy of Warwick in Warwick-ſtreet near St. Clement's Church, ſo that he may be had again, ſhall have a Guinea Reward and Charges.

Lately Publiſhed,

A Rational Account of the Secret Diſeaſes peculiar to the Female Sex. Plainly diſcovering their Symptoms, Nature true Caſe and beſt Method of Cure, ſo as Women or Maids of the meaneſt Capacity may perfectly underſtand and cure their own Infirmities, with an ſimple Diſcourſe on Barrenneſs and Miſcarriage, directing how certainly to cure the former, and a ſolemn Caution to prevent the laſt: To which are added, Preſcriptions in Engliſh of admirable and Experienc'd Medicines for the Cure of each private Diſtemper Women and Maids are ſubject unto, by which they may eaſily cure themſelves without Trouble, the Advice or Knowledge of any other Perſon. The whole illuſtrated with various Cases of Perſons cured, proper Hints, uſeful Cautions, Obſervations and Inſtructions, the like for general Benefit to the Female Sex, never before publiſh'd. By a Phyſician. Sold at the Harch with Blue Doors near the Square in Hatton Yard in the Minories. Price Bound 1s 6d.

LONDON: Printed for *J. Tonſon* in the *Strand*, and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in. 1713.